

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

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To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: National Fire Plan - Contracting

To meet the intent of Congress with the increased funding associated with the National Fire Plan, State Directors need to ensure that opportunities are being made for local communities to participate in contract work, especially in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels management programs. We will be reporting to Congress across a range of issues regarding progress involving National Fire Plan actions, as intended by the legislation. The legislative intent clearly involves the use of local and regional resources and the direction of funds at that level. We understand some States feel there is no local capacity to meet contracting needs. It would be most difficult to maintain that position if we do not aggressively issue solicitations.

In order to ensure success you must actively seek contracting opportunities and solicit for this type of work. Do not assume that based on past experiences, interest may not exist in any specific area.

Contracting and procurement personnel have established contracting zones throughout the west to assist field offices with the completion of contracts and agreements to meet our targets. Once a field office identifies a need for contractors, the identified lead contracting officer will work within the area to identify contractors and award contracts for all federal agencies to use. Once a contract is in place an agency simply needs to complete a task order to utilize the contract. The NIFC web site has a hot link (<http://www.nifc.gov/fireplan/> and click on the contracting outreach) to the contracting site that is self explanatory on how to find and utilize contracting sources. With the exception of Oregon and Washington, very few contracts have been established. The site contains boiler plate language as well as assistance agreements that is meant to be user friendly.

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The issue of fuel program management accomplishments that include contracting and hiring is of the utmost importance to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Meaningful and positive efforts will cement the foundation for continued program support. Tim Murphy, Deputy Director, Office of Fire and Aviation is scheduling a conference call with Associate State Directors and Deputy State Directors who supervise Fire Management Officers. The purpose of the call is to facilitate our focus on the use of contracting.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Signed by:  
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Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

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